

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01247 262232Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 DHA-02 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /100 W

-----262249Z 001447 /66

O 262203Z APR 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3312

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, SOCI

SUBJECT: 62D ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ITEM 3

1. SUMMARY: DEBATE ON THE DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION HEATED UP ON APRIL 25 WITH STATEMENTS FROM POLAND, GREECE, AFGHANISTAN, SUDAN, JAPAN, NIGERIA, ISRAEL, BULGARIA, MAURITANIA, PAKISTAN, UGANDA, AND THE PLO. IN A DEPARTURE FROM THE RELATIVELY MILD TONE OF EARLIER DECADE STATEMENTS THIS SESSION, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERZOG DELIVERED A SHARP ATTACK ON IRAQ, ACCUSING THAT COUNTRY OF PRACTICING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ITS KURDISH POPULATION AND CHARACTERIZING IT AS A "BRUTAL RACIST REGIME WHICH HAS THE EFFRONTERY TO EVEN APPEAR BEFORE AN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE." HERZOG ALSO CRITICIZED THE REPORT OF THE DECADE CONFERENCE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THUS OPENED THE DOOR FOR A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT WHICH WEO DELEGATIONS HAD HOPED TO AVOID. IRAQ MADE A BRIEF RIGHT OF REPLY AND THE PLO OBSERVER SAID THAT HE HAD NOT PLANNED TO SPEAK BUT FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO AFTER THE ISRAELI STATEMENT. STATEMENTS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS DELIVERED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01247 262232Z

AFTER THE ISRAELI SPEECH WERE SOMEWHAT HARsher (THE MAURITANIAN MADE THE FIRST MENTION THIS SESSION OF AN ALLEGED "PRETORIA-TEL AVIV AXIS") BUT THE LEVEL OF RHETORIC COMPARED TO PREVIOUS DEBATES OF THIS SUBJECT REMAINED LOW. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN OBVIOUS DEPARTURE FROM THE PREVIOUSLY MILD

TONE OF DECADE DEBATE THIS SESSION, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERZOG DELIVERED A SHARP ATTACK ON IRAQ, ACCUSING THAT COUNTRY OF PRACTICING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ITS KURDISH POPULATION AND CHARACTERIZING IT AS A "BRUTAL RACIST REGIME." ALTHOUGH HERZOG CLAIMED TO BE RESPONDING TO AN EARLIER IRAQI STATEMENT, THAT STATEMENT WAS, IN OUR VIEW, UNUSUALLY MILD AND THE ISRAELI COMMENTS WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE CONFRONTATIONAL THAN THOSE OF ANY OTHER DELEGATION. HERZOG ALSO CRITICIZED AT LENGTH THE DOCUMENTATION SECTION OF THE REPORT OF THE DECADE PREPCOM AND THUS OPENED THE DOOR FOR A BULGARIAN SUGGESTION THAT ECOSOC UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT-A DISCUSSION WHICH TWO DELEGATIONS HAD HOPED TO AVOID. (COPY OF ISRAELI STATEMENT BEING POUCHED IO/HR, HEWITT).

3. THE PLO OBSERVER PREFACED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED TO ADDRESS THE DECADE ITEM BUT FELT COMPELLED TO DO SO AFTER THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION. HE ACCUSED ISRAEL OF PURPOSELY ADDING CONTROVERSY TO THE "SMOOTH AND CONSTRUCTIVE" TONE OF DEBATE AND OF "RESORTING TO A DIATRIBE" TO ACHIEVE THAT END. THE PLO STATEMENT ITSELF WAS BRIEF AND RELATIVELY CONTRAINED AS WAS THE IRAQI RIGHT OF REPLY.

4. STATEMENTS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS DELIVERED BEFORE THE ISRAELI INTERVENTION GENERALLY AVOIDED THE ZIONISM ISSUE. THE NIGERIAN ADDRESS ACCUSED "CERTAIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01247 26223Z

UN MEMBERS" OF COLLABORATION WITH RACIST REGIMES AND CALLED FOR UN MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGIMES. THE DELEGATE OF JAPAN URGED THAT THE CONFERENCE BE ORGANIZED SO "AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE" COULD PARTICIPATE.

4. STATEMENTS DELIVERED AFTER THE ISRAELI ADDRESS WERE SOMEWHAT HARSHER ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL TONE REMAINED Milder THAN IN PREVIOUS DEBATES OF THIS SUBJECT. THE MAURITANIAN DELEGATE MADE REFERENCE TO AN ALLEGED PRETORIA/SALISBURY/TEL AVIV AXIS AND THE UGANDANS LIKENED THE FATE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO THAT OF BLACKS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BOTH URGED THAT THE PREPCOM REPORT BE ACCEPTED IN ITS PRESENT FORM.

6. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW HERZOG'S INTERVENTION REFLECTED GROWING ISRAELI FEARS THAT WESTERN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S DECADE POSITION IS ERODING. THE STATEMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY CALCULATED TO INFLUENCE

THE TONE OF RESOLUTIONS NOW BEING FORMULATED ON THIS
ITEM AND MAKE IT AS DIFFICULT AS POSSIBLE FOR SUCH
RESOLUTIONS TO GARNER WESTERN SUPPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770145-0891
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770417/aaaaaoai.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e666c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2686550
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 62D ECOSOC--DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ITEM 3
TAGS: SHUM, SOCI, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e666c19c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009